plication of information technology at village level. There is no formal proposal from the World Bank, for the Government to consider it.

Government's decision to enhance Defence Exports

1403. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI GURUDAS DAs GUPTA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to enhance defence exports in a big way;

(b) if so, the details of the countries to which Defence equipments will be exported;

(c) the details of defence equipments which will b$_e$ exported and under what terms and conditions; and

(d) the extent to which the country wil! get foreign exchange by way oE such exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (d) A policy decision has been taken to giv$_e$ a thrust to the export of defence items, taking into account the capacities available in our production units and the requirements of our own defence forces. Such export$_s$ will b$_e$ made, on merit, of each case to friendly countries, subject to periodical assessment of the international situation. The defence equipments to be exported will depend on the requirements of the buyer$_s$ and their availability with us The export of defence stores will, i generally^ be oa commercial basis. The volume of foreign exchange earning will depend on the orders received.

Increase in AIDS cases in the country

1404. SHRI HARBENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN;
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY;
SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:
SHRI M. A. BABY.
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a sharp increase in the AIDS afflicted patients over the last three months in the country a^ reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 2nd February, 1989;

(b) if so, whether the blood donors and pregnant women have been mostly found the victim of AIDS in the country;

(c) whether ICMR has taken any steps to provide adequate treatment to the AIDS patients; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to keep the public aware about this dreaded disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN IHE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) The Government has seen the News Item appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 2nd February, 1989.

There is no increase in the number of full blown AIDS cases in the last three months. However, because of intensification of Sero-surveillance there had been an increase in the number of persons Screened and seropositive person's and AIDS patients detected.

As of 3lst January, 1989, 2,09,825 persons belonging to high risk groups viz. foreigners, blood donors, hetero-sexually

pdomiscuous males and prostitutes were screened and out of them 764 were found to be HIV sero-positives including 29 full blown AIDS cases comprising of 18 Indian and 11 foreigners.

(b) Out of 764 HIV sero-positive indi viduals detected upto 31st January, 1989, 68 were blood donors and 9 were pregnant women. The majority of HIV sero-positive individuals belonged to two high risk groups namely—promiscuous males (197) and promiscuous women (310).

(c) The Indian Council of Medical Research has been entrusted with the responsbility for organising surveillance for HIV infection. In addition, the Council is also pursuing research on virus isolation.

(d) In order to prevent the spread of **AIDS** in India, the Government have planned the following activities:—

Surveillance for detecting HIV infection;

Testing of blood used for transfusion and ensuring safety cf blood products;

Establishment of clinics for health check up an<j counselling in metropolitan cities;

Strengthening of STD Clinic$_s$ in Medical Colleges/District Hospitals;

Development of medicare facilities for treatment of AIDS patient, in identified majo$_r$ hospitals;

Training of medicaljpara-medical personnel in case management;

Intensification of health education activities as under:—

Health education to increase awareness among general public;

Health education in school$_s$ and colleges; and

Education and counselling of high risk groups $_{as}$ well as persons with **HIV** infection.

Retrenched and surplus Central Govern, ment Employees

1405. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Central Government Employees have either been retrenched or found surplus, in different departments since 1984 till dat$_3$ in all categories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY. OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE iN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM); (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National Investment Bank

1406. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION b$_e$ pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that a number of vital economic issues such a$_s$ to set up a National Investment Bank in place of the Planning Commission as recommended by Ratan Tata Committee has been deferred; and

(b) if so, what ar$_e$ the other economic issues that have been deferred and what are the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Suggestion for setting up of a National Investment Bank is under examination.

(b) The question as worded is too general for a precise answer.

Inadequate functioning of Cobalt units

1407. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that severa' noted Radiotherapy experts have drawn